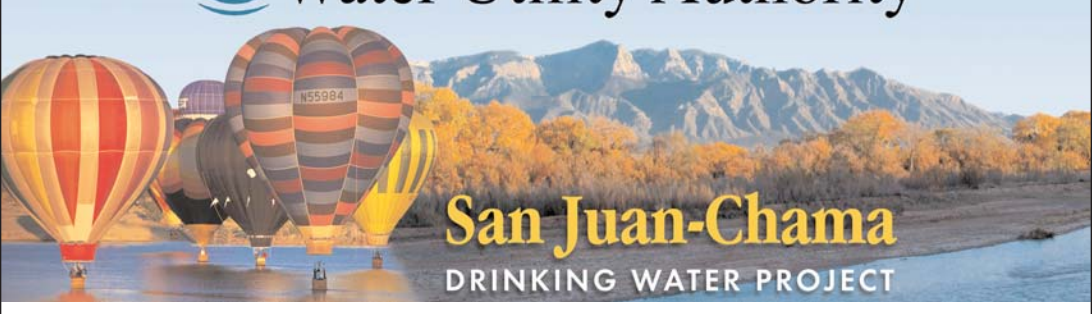
Albuquerque Bernalillo County
Water Utility Authority



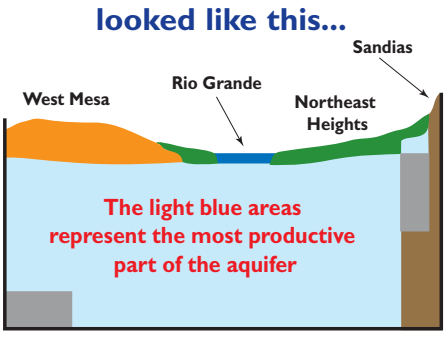
Securing *our Future* Water Supply

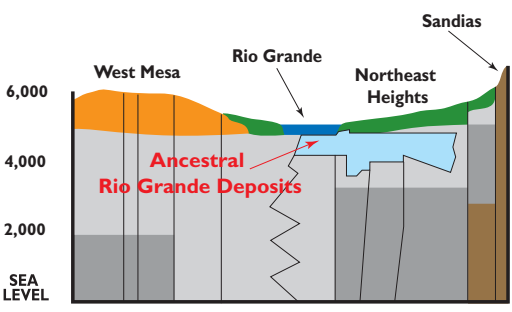
The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (a partnership between the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County) is now implementing the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project. It will provide fully 70% of the service area's water supply from surface water for generations to come, enabling our aquifer to begin to recover from decades of overpumping.

The Lake Superior Myth

For many years, citizens in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area considered themselves blessed with a limitless aquifer, a virtual "Lake Superior." We believed the Rio Grande replenished any water pumped from this underground water supply, so we met all our water needs by relying solely on water pumped from the aquifer. However, studies by the U.S. Geological Survey during the late 1980s painted a much different picture of a far more limited and rapidly diminishing supply:

We thought the aquifer looked like this...

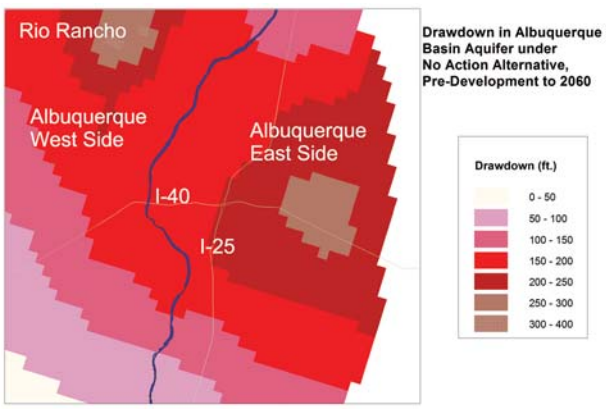




But it really looks like this...

That Sinking Feeling

New studies also show the aquifer's water levels have dropped as much as 180 feet in some areas in the previous thirty-five years, and that continued pumping at prevailing rates would bring the service area dangerously close to subsidence levels – where significant damage could begin to occur to surface infrastructure, buildings and the aquifer itself. We have also learned that only about half of the water pumped from the aquifer is being replenished; the rest is "mined" – lost forever.



This 2060 projection shows the Metropolitan area achieving subsidence levels that could be reached with continued exclusive pumping of the aquifer – even with 40% conservation.

Conservation and Reuse are Not Enough!

Even with conservation, our water demand will continue to increase in tandem with the service area's growth. We must replace the nonrenewable groundwater that we have been securing through depletion of the aquifer with our renewable San Juan-Chama surface water, augmented by renewable recycled water.

The Water Resource Strategy – A Drought Reserve

In 1994, the community embarked on an aggressive water conservation program and an ambitious long-range water resources strategy. Remarkably, water utility customers have reduced their use by more than 30% in nine short years, and have committed to another 10% reduction. When completed, the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project will protect the aquifer and allow us to transition to a sustainable water supply – one that we can count on in perpetuity. But, more importantly, reducing our dependence on the aquifer will allow it to recover, enabling us to draw from it as a drought reserve in times of minimal precipitation.

IN FUTURE SUNDAY JOURNALS:

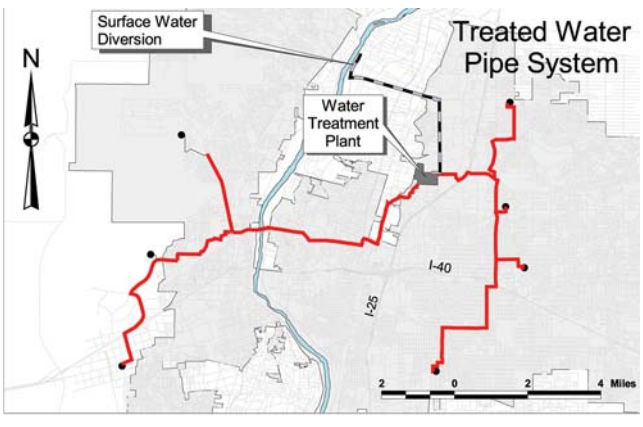
JANUARY 15:
A Strategy for the Future

JANUARY 22:
How the Project Works

JANUARY 29:
Construction Ahead

Foresight Fulfilled

Thanks to the foresight of leaders in the 1960s, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority owns perpetual rights to 48,200 acre-feet per year of San Juan-Chama water. Customers have paid nearly $50 million for the cost of diverting, conveying and storing the water to date, and have paid an additional $375 million for the project through a series of water rate increases in the last decade. The Authority has secured both state and federal permits, and is implementing extraordinary protective measures to assure the project has no significant impact on the environment. The project will assure a sustainable water supply for our area for generations to come.



A diversion dam will capture San Juan-Chama water from the river. An adjacent pump station will transport it to a treatment plant in the Renaissance Center. From there, purified water will be transmitted through 56 miles of pipeline to water customers.

Albuquerque Bernalillo County
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For more information about the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project, call **242-ROAD** *(7623) or visit our website at* **www.sjcdrinkingwater.org**
TTY **1-800-659-8331**